

prof seeks ecology help

"The Mackenzie Highway should be stopped now, or delayed until the public has input and access to all information so that they can make a decision whether they want that highway. Also, nobody's ever consulted the natives or the Eskimos whether they want the Mackenzie Highway."

This is the opinion of Dennis Wighton, a professor in the Genetics department, who has some strong views on environmental protection, and is an extremely active organizer in the field.

Wighton's present concern grew out of a environmental conference held in Montebello, Quebec, late in 1972. The conference came up with a list of 12 "principal areas of concern" including:

- 1) citizen participation
- 2) population (of Canada)
- 3) the growth ethic and social values

4) education (relating to environment)

5) qualitative and quantitative data (utilization of facts)

6) long-term planning and resource development and use

7) environmental protection

8) northern development

9) integral planning and coordination (among government, public, industry and research organizations)

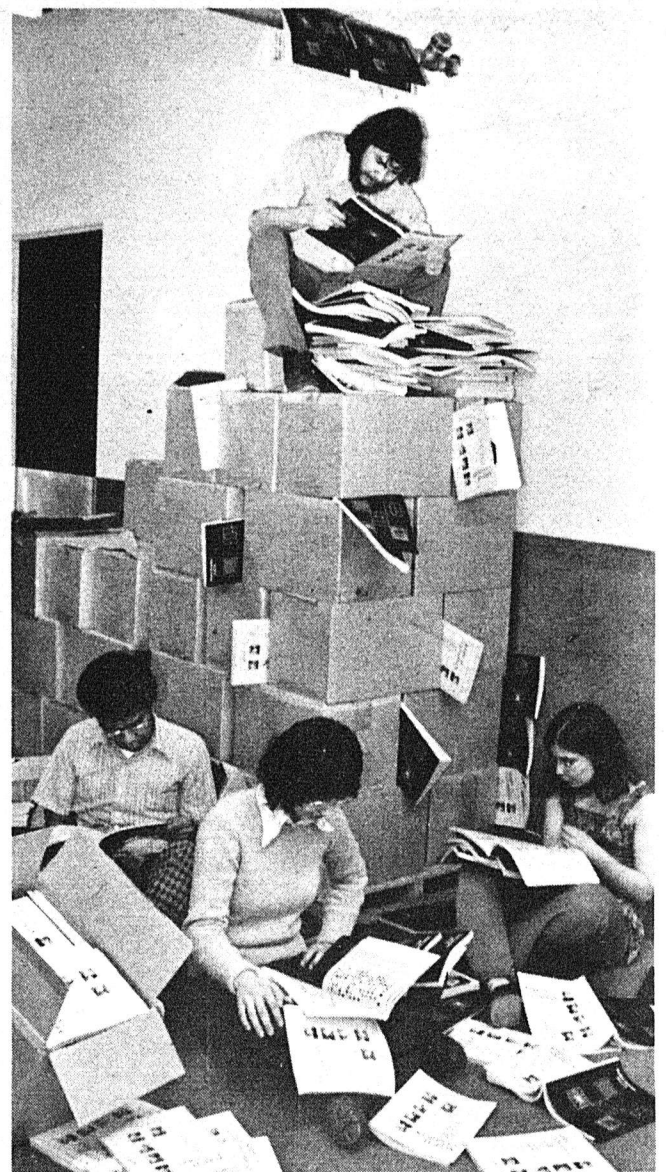
10) foreign ownership

11) ownership

12) energy (relating to production, consumption and transportation)

Wighton hopes to get people in the urban areas of Alberta involved in helping to solve environmental problems, and would like anybody interested in working in any or all of the above areas to contact him. (His phone number is 432-3606). "The provincial government will facilitate you in giving you access to either specialists or background papers on anything; you just name it", he says. He commented that he has been unable to stir the urban centres to action, although he has talked to "80 schools, and umpteen organizations on top of my job".

Asked about the present pollution situation in Alberta, Wighton replied, "If we would enforce the present pollution regulations in Alberta, a lot of problems would be licked," and then referred to the recent Chemcell case in which that company was taken to court for breaking pollution regulations, only to get the case thrown out of court by the judge. Aside from enforcing the regulations, he stressed that "we have the technology not to have one miserable effluent going into the North Saskatchewan River at all!" However, he is rather desperate for help and hopes that this article will result in some student action. kc



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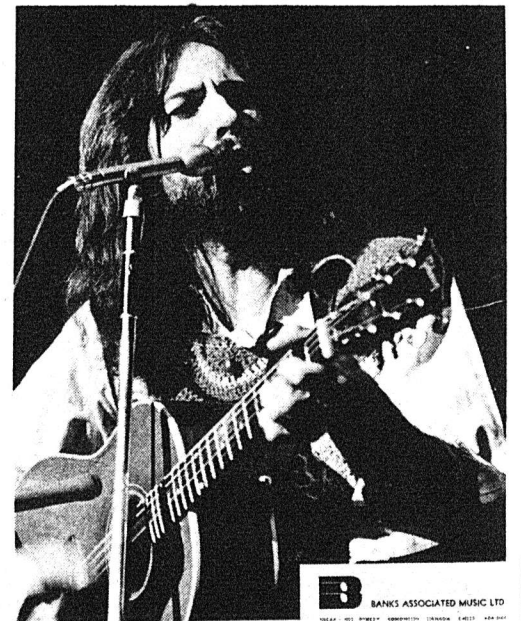
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